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A-93

HANDLING INDICATOR

NO.

TO : Department of State

INFO : Amembassy BOGOTA

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PBOR PFOR CO VE

FROM : Amembassy CARACAS

DATE: 11 April 1974

SUBJECT : Venezuelan Foreign Minister Comments on Colombia/Venezuela Boundary Dispute and Other Bilateral Matters

REF : Caracas 2696, Bogotá 2958

At a luncheon with newsmen on April 8, 1974, Venezuelan Foreign Minister Efraim SCHACHT Aristeguieta was asked about his April 4-5 meeting with Colombian Foreign Minister VASQUEZ Carrizosa in Bogota. The most significant points made by Dr. Schacht were as follow:

(a) With regard to the boundary dispute in the Gulf of Venezuela, the meeting was "very good". Colombia agrees that bilateral discussions should continue and that the dispute should not be referred to a third party. Any agreement will have to take into account not only juridical, but also historic, economic, political, and human considerations.

(b) The GOV will have to bear in mind its maritime boundary problem with Colombia (as well as with Trinidad and Tobago and the Netherlands Antilles) in the upcoming United Nations Law of the Sea Conference in Caracas.

(c) The GOV will take up with the new Colombian Administration the question of the demarcation of the 1,400 kilometers of land boundary which have not yet been formally demarcated.

(d) An agreement was reached to reactivate a joint commission to study the problem of an estimated 700,000 undocumented Colombians in Venezuela.

COMMENT: Schacht wanted to convey a positive impression of his first extensive discussion with the Colombian Foreign Minister about boundary problems (a short meeting was held at the time of

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the inauguration of President Pérez), but it appears obvious that there will be no important developments until the new Colombian Administration assumes office.

FISHER

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to be 'JF' or 'J. Fisher', written in a cursive style.

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